

that make up our great state. The refuge is a shining example of our partnership with the federal government to preserve these beautiful natural resources in the heart of our Metropolitan Region. Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the forty years of dedicated work by the federal employees and volunteers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service whose efforts will continue in order to protect Minnesota wildlife and habitat at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANASSAS PARK CITY SCHOOLS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manassas Park City School system as they celebrate their 40th anniversary as a School Division in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Manassas Park City School system was the last school division to be approved for formation by the Virginia Department of Education in 1976, as the City of Manassas Park became the last town in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive City status.

The beginnings for the school system 40 years ago were not ideal. After a last minute move for independence from Prince William County, both the government and the schools were created with no infrastructure or financial support. In spite of these obstacles, the four schools which make up the Manassas Park City School system have become a successful part of a thriving community. Thanks to dedicated faculty and staff, Manassas Park City Schools are achieving remarkable things: a one-to-one digital conversion, a new balanced calendar, improved community engagement, and outstanding academic performance.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that administrators, teachers, and support staff play in inspiring our students. The work Manassas Park City Schools have done, and continue to do, with young men and women will be of great value to our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the importance of the Manassas Park City School system's 40th anniversary and what it represents for the city's residents, students, and staff. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Manassas Park City Schools and to thank them for their service to the children of Manassas Park. I wish them all well in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL CENTRO

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of El Centro in

Kansas City, Kansas. El Centro was established in 1976 as a place where the Kansas City, Kansas' Hispanic population could come together and form a sense of connectedness within their communities.

El Centro began with just a \$10,000 grant from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and with the hard work and dedication of caring community members it has grown to 3 locations in my district, serving more than 12,000 individuals and families per year.

El Centro could not be what it is today without the efforts of its President and CEO Irene Caudillo. Irene has a long history of improving our community by creating children and youth programs for nonprofit organizations, including El Centro and Wyandotte Mental Health Association in Wyandotte County.

I've had the privilege of getting to know Irene over the years during my visits to El Centro's Head Start program, Academy for Children, which aims to help Pre-K students receive strong early-childhood educational opportunities and set them up for success. Irene also serves on my Hispanic Advisory Committee, is a school board member in Kansas City, Kansas, and a great leader and role model in the Kansas City community.

Mr. Speaker, our community is stronger because of El Centro, where their mission is to strengthen communities and improve lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities. I look forward to our continued work together.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA FARM-CITY WEEK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of Alabama Farm-City Week.

Over the past 60 years during the week of Thanksgiving; Farm-City week is observed to express gratitude for the bounty with which God has blessed our land while recognizing our farmers and communities who help make the Agriculture industry so successful.

In our great state, Agriculture and related industries provide over half a million good-paying jobs. During Farm-City week, I hope everyone in East Alabama will recognize our farmers and be appreciative of all they do.

In Alabama, the 2016 Farm-City theme is "Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 60th Anniversary of Farm-City week.

OUTDOOR RECREATION'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House on its adoption of the Out-

door Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which directs the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to assess and analyze the U.S. outdoor recreation economy and the effects attributable to it on the overall U.S. economy.

In Oregon and across the country, an increasing number of Americans enjoy recreating outdoors. In fact, at least two-thirds of Oregonians participate in outdoor recreation each year. From the magnificent Columbia River Gorge to trails and creeks throughout our forests, canyons, and deserts, these open spaces and recreation areas are vital to individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

Outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon and nationwide support healthy communities, create jobs, generate tax revenue, and support a high quality of life. Americans spend \$646 billion per year on outdoor recreation gear, vehicles, trips, and more. In Oregon, outdoor recreation generates over \$12 billion in consumer spending, tens of thousands of jobs, and \$4 billion in wages and salaries. Additionally, supporting sustainable outdoor recreation can also help protect important ecological, watershed, and fish and wildlife values that underpin high quality recreation experiences.

Outdoor recreation is vitally important to Oregonians and Oregon's economy, and this legislation will provide us with the information needed to guide our land and water policy to support this important industry.

TRIBUTE TO CARL THEODORE WOLF, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my friend and proud Navy veteran Carl Theodore Wolf, Jr., who passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Carl was a caring member of his community, and he will be deeply missed.

Carl served in the U.S. Navy for ten years with honor and distinction. While serving in Germany on the Rhine River Patrol, Carl met his wife Anneliese. After their marriage on November 6, 1955, Carl and Anneliese made their first home in San Diego, California. A few years later, they would celebrate the birth of their daughter Brigitte. In 1967, the Wolf family picked up and settled down in Reseda, California.

Carl loved his country and his family. He was an avid reader and especially enjoyed history books. Carl truly enjoyed talking to people and relished recounting stories about his travels around the world while serving in the Navy.

Carl's dedication to his work, family, and country are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I was proud to call Carl my friend and I will deeply miss him. I extend my condolences to Carl's family and friends; although Carl may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.